

DISTRICT

Old Saybrook

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PROGRAM NAME

Talent Development

GRADES SERVED

K-8

CONTACT  
INFORMATION

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DESCRIPTION

The Old Saybrook Public Schools Mission Statement and Strategic Long Range Plan provides strong foundation for maximum student achievement. It is our belief that a Talent Development Program will provide an essential ingredient towards our continuum of services offered to all our children. The Talent Development Program of Old Saybrook Schools will seek to foster the talents in all our children by providing them with programs that are based on principles of the Schoolwide Enrichment Model (Reis & Renzulli).

The essential elements of the Schoolwide enrichment Model include the following three components.

**1. Curriculum Modification Techniques.** Curriculum can be modified to offer in-depth learning experiences for students as appropriate. Curriculum compacting may be one method that is used with students to eliminate repetition of mastered material, upgrade the challenge level of the regular curriculum, and provide time for enrichment and accelerated activities (Reis and Renzulli, 1992).

**2. Enrichment Triad Model -- Type I, II, III**

**Type I -- General Explorating Activities.** Enrichment consists of experiences and activities that are designed to

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bring the learner into touch with the kinds of topics of areas of study in which he or she may develop a sincere interest. These activities may be offered to the entire student body, a whole class, or to a small group of students outside the classroom.

**Type II -- Group Training Activities.** Enrichment consists of materials, methods and instructional techniques that develop high level thinking and feeling processes. These processes include critical thinking, awareness development and creative or productive thinking.

**Type III -- Individual or Small Group Investigations.**

Enrichment consists of activities in which the student becomes an actual investigator of a real problem or topic by using appropriate methods of inquiry. The success of a Type III activity depends on the interest and task commitment of the individual student.

As this model lends itself to being inclusive, all children will have the opportunity to participate in Type I, II, III activities throughout the school year. Students who become involved in Type III enrichment activities may work directly with the Enrichment Teacher outside the regular classroom. Students will be selected to participate in Type III activities by classroom teacher nomination, student referral and Talent Development Teacher review. Students who display above average ability, creativity, achievement, high interest and task commitment will be considered for Type III activities as identified by current criteria.

Type III activities outside the regular classroom will not result in the student missing essential work. The Enrichment and Classroom Teacher will remain in constant communication over the student's academic program. Type III activities will be designed to correlate with the student's curriculum to the maximum extent possible. Creative Arts which include music, theater, dance, and creative writing will be included as part of Type III activities. Once a student completes his/her project, the student will then exit the Type III activity to make room for another student. The design of this program provides the opportunity to increase the number of students who receive direct services through the Enrichment Teacher.